Reviews and Bibliographical Notes.

Nosographie des Chorées. Dr. MAURICE LANNOIS. Pp. 172. Paris, 1886.

In this monograph the author makes use of the word chorea to embrace "almost all involuntary muscular movements, which are incessantly renewed, without rest or intermission, and only ceasing during sleep." The acceptance of this far-reaching definition of the word necessitates the description of a multitude of conditions which, although having certain symptoms in common, nevertheless are very far from being analogous.

These various conditions are divided by the author into three main groups: rhythmical choreas, pseudo-choreas, and arhythmical choreas. The first group embraces epidemic chorea, so called, and the actual rhythmical choreas.

Under the title of epidemic chorea are classed such affections as "tarentism," a name given on account of its supposed dependance upon the bite of a tarentula, "tigretier," an affection occurring along the course of the Tigris, and the "Jumpers." The "Jumpers" which are here referred to are certain sects of Methodists found early in the present century in Wales and Cornwall. They must not be confounded with the Jumpers of Maine. The jumping among the former constitutes part of their religious worship.

"The camp-meetings of the American Methodists of the far West" are also classed under this heading, and are described as an aggravated form of epidemic chorea.

Under "actual rhythmical choreas" are classed chorea magna and reflex saltatory spasm. In this chapter a very interesting case of hystero-chorea is described and illustrated by twelve instantaneous photographs. The execution of these pictures leaves a great deal to be desired.

The second group, the pseudo choreas, includes the tic de Salaam, electrical chorea, chorea of the larynx, and chorea of the diaphragm (singultus), the various tics convulsifs under which title Gille de la Tourette's disease is also classed, and lastly para-myoclonus multiplex.

Laryngeal chorea is justly acknowledged by the author as not

deserving the name ; chronic singultus is so well known as an hysterical symptom that the term diaphragmatic chorea is rather startling.

The third class, the ahrythmical choreas, embraces the chorea of Sydenham (sempichorea of Gowers and West, chorea of pregnancy, chorea of old age, and hereditary chorea), also hemichorea and hemiathetosis.

To each of these affections a special chapter is devoted, and it would be difficult to surpass the author in his accuracy of research and his exposé of the present state of our knowledge upon each of these points. Particular attention is also paid to the etiology and to the various symptomatic points of differentiation. The chapter on pathological anatomy, although containing nothing new, is an excellent resumé, facts being clearly separated from theories. All in all, the author has succeeded in producing a book which is replete with facts, of actual and historical interest, and full of bibliographical references. No future writer on this subject can well do without this monograph. G. W. J.

Des Vertiges. Dr. E. WEILL. Paris. J. B. Baillière et Fils, 1886.

This monograph of 120 pages treats of the various forms of vertigo, taking the word in its narrowest sense, for the definition adopted by the author is that of Grainger Stewart, namely, "The sensation of the instability of our position in space, in reference to surrounding objects." The classification of the book is not based, as is generally done in treating of this subject upon etiological conditions, but according to physiological principles. The physiology, and particularly the literature of the subject, is very complete, but certain unaccepted physiological experiments are taken as facts and deductions made from them which consequently can also not be accepted.

Vertigo is here classified into :

1. Vertigo dependent upon a disorder of the reflex apparatus of equilibration. Under this title is included vertigo due to organic lesions (Ménière's disease, lesions of the cerebellum, etc.), also V. dependent upon functional affections (neuroses, affections of the circulation, reflex, diatheses, toxic).

2. Vertigo dependent upon affections of the sensory mechanism of equilibration. Includes visual V.

3. Vertigo of complex causes. Includes rotary V. and seasickness.

The chapter devoted to Ménière's disease is the most complete.

In speaking of auricular, traumatic, gastric, and neurotic vertigos, the author does not enter at all into the manner of production, and although he seems to attribute vertigo in all its forms to an action, either direct or indirect, upon the cerebellum, he leaves us completely in the dark as to how this action is supposed to take place.

To the form known as neurasthenic vertigo, a form which is very frequently met with, only a few words are allotted. The chapter on diagnosis, especially from a differential point of view, is not as complete as it should be. The entire impression left by reading the book is tbat of a good resumé of the subject, interestingly written, but containing little new. G. W. J.

On Some Forms of Paralysis from Peripheral Neuritis of Gouty, Alcoholic, Diphtheritic, and other Origin. By THOMAS BUZZARD, M.D., London. J. and A. Churchill, London, 1886.

In the Periscope department of this number will be found a review of Dr. Buzzard's lectures on paralysis from peripheral neuritis, published originally in the *Lancet*. As we go to press we receive a copy of these lectures in book form which contains a "considerable amount of material which was unavoidably omitted from the 'Lectures,' as they were delivered at the Harveian Society of London, and afterwards published in the *Lancet*." This little book (of 142 beautifully printed pages), which any student can read in a couple of hours, will, we believe, contribute greatly to the proper understanding of certain forms of disease which are often falsely interpreted by neurologists and invariably so by the general practitioner. This is not to the discredit of the general practitioner, for it is only within the last year or thereabouts that any one of us has been able to formulate his views on this subject. Dr. Buzzard's book is, therefore, particularly timely.

Not wishing to repeat what has already been said in the Periscope department, we will simply direct attention to a few additional points. After giving a clear definition of simple neuritis, with some illustrative cases, the author refers at once to neuritis in the gouty. The cases given are convincing. We believe that many of our so-called lithæmic and some of our reflex paraplegic cases would be classified more properly in this way.

The chapter on multiple neuritis seems to us to have brought order out of chaos. Buzzard includes under the terms a group of symptoms which may be present in subjects of syphilis, of chronic alcoholism, of lead poisoning, and of Kakké or Beriberi. The remarks on alcoholic paralysis are among the most interesting in the book. The preponderance of paralysis in the lower extremities in this form of neuritis is insisted upon again and again, and the author seems to consider the foot-drop as characteristic of alcoholic paralysis as the wrist-drop is of lead-palsy.

"The existence of foot-drop is not alone a proof of habits of excess, but the symptom is so extremely frequent in cases of alcoholic paralysis that we should be wanting in our duty if we failed to bear this in mind and direct investigation accordingly."

Buzzard, as Dreschfeld does (see *Brain*, 1885, 1886), attaches great importance to the peculiar mental condition of alcoholists: "they describe the presence of their friends as if they

saw realities, and reason tolerably clear upon false premises." The third and last chapter is concerned chiefly with diphtheritic paralysis.

In this form Dr. Buzzard is inclined to regard a multiple neuritis as the essential lesion of the disease. There is ample pathological proof of this. The book closes with short sections on diagnosis (in which the various points of differential diagnosis are carefully considered), prognosis, and treatment.

The book is a great credit to the author and publishers. We have read it eagerly and with pleasure. B. S.